

Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 8, 2010
4:00 PM
RISCA Offices
Providence RI

Council Members Present: Bill Brackett, Chairman; Carrie Zaslow, Vice Chairman; Jean Rondeau, Secretary; Nancy Chapman; Ann Clanton; Regina Partridge; Carolyn Peck; and David Wax.

Council Members Unable to Attend: Mary K. Talbot; Beverly Blais; Dana Neugent; and Andrea Valentini

Staff Members Present: Randall Rosenbaum, Executive Director; Steven Feinberg, Executive Director Film & Television; Sherilyn Brown, Education Director; Cristina DiChiera, Director Individual Artists & Public Art Program;; , Asst. Education Program; Elena Calderón-Patiño, Community Arts Program Director; and Donna Fiske, Fiscal & Office Manager

Vice Chairman Carrie Zaslow called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM, in the temporary absence of Chairman Bill Brackett.

Approval of Minutes – September 30, 2010 Council meeting:

(Motion: Regina Partridge; seconded by Carolyn Peck, approved unanimously)

Financial report for 1st Quarter of FY11:

Mr. Rosenbaum reported finances are where they should be; with 42% of the fiscal year passed our spending is on target.

(Motion: David Wax; seconded by Carrie Zaslow, approved unanimously)

Executive Director's report:

Mr. Rosenbaum spoke briefly about the upcoming Inauguration for Governor-Elect Chafee. RISCA has been working with members of the transition staff to ensure that the arts are well represented in the Inauguration and in parties and events following the Inauguration. We have recommended several artists, from diverse communities, as well as readings by the State Poet, Lisa Starr.

The Inaugural committee is planning to have events in restaurants surrounding Waterplace Park and at a special Waterfire event.

Sherry Brown spoke about our ongoing partnership with Rhode Island College and RISD on STEM to STEAM. An application is being written by staff at RIC to the National Science Foundation, and RISCA will be a partner in the implementation of any program.

Mr. Rosenbaum reported on preparations for the unveiling of the Governors Portrait, which will be held on December 30th. Mr. Rosenbaum, along with Governor and Mrs. Carcieri will be meeting with the artist, Harley Bartlett, at his studio on December 9, 2010, for a first look at the finished work.

Steven Feinberg from the Film & Television Office reported on a press conference at the State House that was held for the TV series Body of Proof. It was well attended by the public as well as members of the General Assembly.

Old Business:

Leadership Succession: There was a proposal made at the September 30th Council meeting to amend the Council Procedures and Regulations in order to establish a procedure for a smooth succession of leadership over time. A proposal was drafted by Mr. Rosenbaum and Council member Beverly Blais at the request of the Council. Upon review it raised some concerns. Jean Rondeau was concerned that under this suggestion the nominating committee would be in a position of being told who they could nominate for Chairperson. David Wax suggested we could have a Chairperson, a Chair-Elect, and a Co-Chair. This would provide an opportunity for a future Chairperson to gain some experience working with the current Chairperson. There would be an expectation that the Chair-Elect would be nominated by the Nominating Committee for the next election. Carrie Zaslow raised concerns about the issues beyond control that would affect a succession process, such as the current situation when so many members have exceeded their term on the board. After discussion, the decision was made to prepare another proposal for the next Council meeting.

Eligibility for non Citizens: Ms. DiChiera and Mr. Rosenbaum presented draft language for a guideline change that would revise our eligibility requirements. Under the change only U.S. citizens or permanent legal residents of the United States who were residents of the State of Rhode Island would be eligible to apply for grants.

(Motion: David Wax; seconded by Regina Partridge, approved unanimously)

Big Yellow School Bus Grants: Mr. Rosenbaum reported these grants have been very successful. Jean Rondeau noted that in most cases the grants are for the full maximum amount allowed, \$400. The suggestion was made that we contact bus companies to see if we can negotiate a special Yellow School Bus Grant fees based on the quantity of business we are providing them.

Mr. Rosenbaum requested more funds for this program since we have used nearly all the \$20,000.00 previously allocated. Chairman Brackett proposed another \$15,000 for the remainder of the year.

(Motion: Nancy Chapman; seconded by Ann Clanton, approved unanimously)

New Business:

Public Art: Liz Keithline reported on several public art projects. The RI State Police Headquarters statue has been installed. RI School for the Deaf committee will be meeting at the end of December to finalize the scope of work. Horizon Garden at the Dunkin Donuts Center, a work by local artist Mikyoung Kim, will be done as soon as they complete some lighting work. Cliff Garten has worked very hard with the team at URI Graduate School of Oceanography to come up with a great proposal. The DMV panel will be held Wednesday, January 12th at 9AM to review finalist proposals. URI College of Pharmacy will have their finalist proposals on Friday, February 18th at 10AM.

Mr. Rosenbaum reported that we have been in discussions with the Rhode Island Airport Corporation (RIAC) and the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) about public art in the recently completed Intermodal Facility. We had been in discussions with RIAC about the Intermodal before RIAC suspended all public art projects at the airport. Mr. Rosenbaum said that they were interested in a \$300,000 project for the facility, which would definitely benefit from an infusion of public art. During discussion it was reported that previously all funds for airport projects remained under the control of RIAC, and did not come to the RISCA managed public art fund as required by law. While this had been somewhat advantageous in the past, the suspension of projects created a problem with work having been done and then needing to be cancelled because funds were no longer available. The consensus from the Council was that all future projects should follow the process outlined in the law of having funds transferred into the Council's restricted receipt account in advance of the commencement of work.

Liz reported that future projects will include the RIC/URI School of Nursing, the URI College of Chemistry, and the RIC Art Center.

Liz also reported that she has been speaking with editor Jack Becker from Public Art Review magazine and he is interested in doing an article featuring our public art program in Rhode Island for their fall 2011 issue.

Matching Dollar Requirement: Mr. Rosenbaum shared a letter with the council from The Providence Athenaeum about the concern they believe small and medium size organizations have with meeting RISCA's 1:1 cash match for project grants during these difficult economic times. Mr. Rosenbaum responded in a letter informing them that changing the match had been considered and the reasons the decision was made to not make any changes at this time. The council supported Mr. Rosenbaum's response.

Approval of Grants:

Project Grants for Organizations:

The following individuals declared a conflict of interest with the following applicants: David Wax, Providence Athenaeum, Musica Dolce; Bill Brackett, First Works, Mixed Magic, Pawtucket Armory Association

Mr. Rosenbaum asked for a reconsideration of the denied grant to Veterans Memorial Auditorium. He reported that RISCA had been working closely with VMA and the Rhode Island Foundation on programming for the newly invigorated auditorium, and that Elena Patino on the RISCA staff had been helping them with reaching out to diverse audiences. Mr. Rosenbaum reported that the Rhode Island Foundation had awarded \$20,000 in support of this project, and it would be important for RISCA to contribute as well.

Carrie Zaslow suggested that we do as the panel suggested and not approve the grant but issue a separate grant as a Partnership with RI Foundation to support the festival in the amount of \$6,000.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations of the Project Grants for Organizations panel.

(Motion: Carrie Zaslow; seconded by David Wax, approved unanimously)

A motion was made to award a \$6,000 grant in support of the Veterans Memorial Auditorium Foundation diversity festival application as part of a partnership effort with the Rhode Island Foundation.

(Motion: Carrie Zaslow; seconded by Carolyn Peck, approved unanimously)

Project Grants Individuals:

The following individuals declared a conflict of interest with the following applicants: Bill Brackett, Laura Collela.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations of the Project Grants Individuals panel.

(Motion: Carrie Zaslow; seconded by Nancy Chapman, approved unanimously)

Project Grants Education:

The following individuals declared a conflict of interest with the following applicants: Bill Brackett, Shea High School.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations of the Project Grants Education panel.

(Motion: Jean Rondeau; seconded by Carrie Zaslow, approved unanimously)

Folk Arts:

No conflicts of interest were declared on this set of applications.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations of the Folk Art panels.

(Motion: Carolyn Peck;; seconded by Jean Rondeau, approved unanimously)

Fellowships:

No conflicts of interest were declared on this set of applications.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations of the Fellowship panels.

(Motion: Ann Clanton; seconded by Carrie Zaslow, approved unanimously)

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 PM

(Motion: Nancy Chapman; seconded Ann Clanton, approved unanimously)